Raids under FERA and COFEPOSA

191. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of raids conducted to find out the extent of violation of the provisions of FERA and COFEPOSA during the last months in the various parts of the country; and

(b) what is the outcome of such raids?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) The Directorate of Enforcement (FERA) conducted as many as 665 searches during the last two months i.e. December, 1985 and January, 1986 for violation of Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973.

(b) As a result of the searches, besides incriminating documents, Indian currency of Rs. 43.77 lakhs and foreign currency worth Rs. 20.14 lakhs (approximately) were seized. 19 persons were detained under the COFEPOSA Act. 1974, for racketeering in foreign exchange.

Bank loan for constraction of houses

192. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether banks are permitted to advance loans to builders for purposes of construction of buildings;

(b) whether banks advance loans to individuals for constructing houses; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Under the existing policy guidelines of Reserve Bank of India regarding housing finance, banks are not permitted to extend assistance to builders for working capital purposes. Banks are allowed to grant advances for construction of houses to individuals|groups of borrowers falling under the category of housing finance. Priority has been accorded for the extension of direct finance to individuals|groups of borrowers belonging to Scheduled Castes| Scheduled Tribes (SC/ST) and economically weaker sections of the community.

Powerloom Sector

193. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to ensure that powerloom sector does not encroach upon reserved category production of handloom items; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Textile Commissioner's notification reserving certain items for Handlooms was extended upto 31st March, 1986. Powers have been delegated to State Government authorities for implementation of the said reservation, A new Act entitled "The Handlooms (Reservation of Articles for Production) Act, 1985" has been enacted since the present Reservation Orders were challenged in various Courts of Law as result of which its implementation became very difficult.

Tripartile committee for newspaper industry

194. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to appoint a tripartite committee for the newspaper industry; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) A proposal to set up a Central Advisory Committee for Newspaper Industry is under consideration of the Government. However, for reviewing the progress of implementation of Central Government orders on Palekar Tribunal recommendations and problems germane thereto, a Tripartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Labour Minister already exists since December, 1983.

Setting up of a Committee streamline the functioning of Food Corporation of India

195. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Wlil the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a Committee to streamline the functioning of Food Corporatoin of India; and

(b) if so, by when it is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. an internal committee of officers is looking into the working of Food Corporation of India with a view to bringing economy and efficiency. and its report is awaited shortly.

R.B.I. study into economic backwardness of states

196. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India is contemplating to diagnose the causes of Bihar's economic backwardness;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) by when the proposed study will be initiated;

(d) whether the Reserve Bank propose to conduct such study in other States also;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) if not ,what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) to (c) Following the discussions at the Regional Consultative Committee meeting for Eastern Region in 1984—the Reserve Bank of India got a sample study conducted in 9 Districts of Bihar to find out the reasons for low credit deposit ratio in the State, and suggest remedial measures. The study revealed that the main reasons for low credit: deposit ratio in Bihar are lack of infractural facilities, inadequate and irregular supply of power, non-availability of require assets--lack of assured irrigation etc. together-with factors like inadequacy of staff, lack of proper guidance from controlling offices, and lack of publictiy for various credit linked schemes. Additionally, the study showed that in the context of large sections of the population belonging to economically back-ward communities--there was a need for prospective borrowers to be properly identified to take up viable schemes. The credit: deposit ratio of banks in Bihar and general economic backwardness was subsequently discussed in the State Level Bankers' Committee meeting held on 1-2-1986. A committee consisting of the Government Secretaries and Bankers has been constituted to monitor progress of improvement in credit: deposit ratio.

(d) to (f) According to information available from Reserve Bank of India similar steps were taken to study low credit deposit ratio in West Bengal after that State Government drew attention to this effect. Moreover, a high level Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. S.R. Sen was set up by the Reserve Bank of India and NABARD in consultation with Union Ministry of Agriculture to study the problems and prospects of Agricultural productivity in the Eastern states in West